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CENTRAL INTELLIGENCE AGENCY  
Directorate of Intelligence  
10 December 1971

INTELLIGENCE MEMORANDUM

India-Pakistan Situation Report  
(As of 0600 EST)

Military Situation in the East

1. The Indian Army claims control of most of the ground east of the Meghna River, but All India Radio has withdrawn an earlier report that Indian forces had crossed the river and reached Narayanganj, only five miles from Dacca. The reports say the Indians have crossed the Meghna only near Bhairab Bazar. The Dacca domestic radio station, which went off the air at 2115 EST yesterday (0815 this morning in Dacca), still was not broadcasting at latest report.

2. In the northwest, advancing Indian forces reportedly have cut off nearly a division of Pakistani troops, trapping them in the Dinjapur and Rangpur districts. In the south, Indian troops moving north from Jessore have reportedly reached the outskirts of Kushtia, on the south bank of the Ganges River.

3. India claims its navy has control of approaches to all ports in East Pakistan, and that escape of Pakistani naval vessels is impossible.

Military Situation in the West

4. The military situation in the west appears to be shifting slowly in favor of India. A major battle is continuing east of Sialkot as the Indians attempt to drive into West Pakistan. The results

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of this offensive are still inconclusive

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5. In the Sind area, the Indians now aim to have advanced some 130 miles and to have captured over 1,200 square miles of territory.

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6. The Indian Navy apparently has established complete control of the western waters. In an extensive naval raid on the night of 8 December, the Indians claim to have struck along the entire coast of West Pakistan, including the port of Karachi. The Indians now claim 3 Pakistani warships, 2 submarines, and 9 gunboats destroyed since the conflict began. According to Admiral Kohli, Commander in Chief of the western fleet, "the Indian navy is in command of the high seas and we can go where we want to go."

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7. In the air war, the Pakistani air force evidently has concentrated its efforts in the northern sector of the western front in order to give close support to the ground forces. This has allowed the Indian air force to strike heavily against strategic targets in Lahore, Karachi, and other areas. The Indians can be expected to shift

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additional air units to the west from the eastern front, and should eventually establish complete air superiority. India now claims to have downed 73 Pakistani aircraft with losses of only 31.

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Bombing of Non-military Areas in Dacca

9. Both the US Consul General in Dacca and the UN Assistant Secretary General there are convinced that the bombing of non-military areas in Dacca on the night of 9-10 December (and inferentially the bombing of an orphanage on the previous night that reportedly killed 150 children) was carried out by a Pakistani aircraft based in Dacca. They believe the purpose of the attacks was to discredit the Indian Air Force.

10. Evidence for this conclusion includes the virtual lack of anti-aircraft fire during both attacks, the recovery of what appears to be a make-shift bombrack near the scene of the latest bombing, and the sound of the aircraft engines which was markedly different from that of the Indian jets used in previous attacks. The Assistant Secretary General informed U Thant of his conclusions.

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